



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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October 14, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Broadband industry Practices (WC Docket No 07-52)

Dear Commissioners:

As your Commission considers issuing new regulations on broadband and wireless networks, the Oregon Business Association urges you to consider the negative implications of such a policy. The intent of the Commission to keep the Internet and wireless networks open and free is noble. It is our hope that any resulting regulations consider the impact on local businesses and investment.

We all are familiar with the arguments presented by the network providers, but the impact on small businesses is a story not told often enough. In the absence of a thoughtful and measured approach to broadband regulation, the Commission's action could threaten the ability for Oregon businesses to fully leverage the benefits of advanced communications networks.

The hundreds of millions of dollars already invested in broadband networks right here in Oregon play an integral role in our economy. So many Oregon businesses – most of them small – depend on network investment to fuel their business. This includes local contractors charged with building a new cell phone tower; a local software developer who is releasing a new smartphone application; and even a small startup whose latest innovation depends on access to the network.

In this economy, we cannot afford to overlook the impacts on small businesses – they are, in fact, the primary drivers of the economy. While your Commission listens to the voices of many stakeholders on this issue, it is our hope that you will seriously consider the impact such regulations could have on local investment.

Sincerely,

Ryan Deckert
President